



# RCA Missionary Update

from Cornelia Roghair

Cornelia Roghair felt called to be a missionary and a teacher while she was in high school. She earned a degree in elementary education from Black Hills State College in South Dakota and a master's degree in education from Azusa Pacific University in California. After teaching in Japan as an RCA volunteer for over ten years, Cornelia was appointed a career missionary in 1987. For twenty-one years, she taught English at San'ai High School. She now teaches pre-school and works with Sunday schools and youth groups. She also partners with Nopporo Christian School to develop ministries throughout Japan's northern island of Hokkaido.

## Japan facts:

- Population: 127,333,000
- Size: 377,835 square miles (slightly smaller than California)
- Major religions: 84 percent Shinto and Buddhist, 16 percent other (0.7 percent Christian)



## MINISTRY

Christian Education

## LOCATION

Ebetsu, Hokkaido, Japan

## PARTNERS

United Church of Christ in Japan  
Nopporo Christian School

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*"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." —Proverbs 3:5-6*

Greetings from Japan

December 2009

Today is a Japanese national holiday and the day I try to get a letter sent your way nearly every year. Winter has arrived! We woke up to a white world this morning. Most of it has melted but it is cold and windy tonight and I am very thankful not to have to be out. Last night I taught for a friend and did not get home until nearly 11:00. The moon was beautiful but it was a cold walk home.

I have been doing a bit of traveling to preschools several hours from here. I really enjoyed the time with the children and the teachers. The fall leaves were very beautiful and I really enjoyed them as I traveled from place to place. I have had some very long days and have watched the sun come up from the train window as I ate the breakfast I had packed the night before. Many schools have been closed due to the flu so I call before I set out. One church after school program had 38 of the 40 children home with the flu. I have been blessed with good health thus far for which I am very thankful.



*Enjoying fall*

The preschools have fall programs each year. They practice songs, skits, etc. They do a great job and I really enjoy attending and getting to know the parents and grandparents better. As soon as the fall program is over the Christian preschools begin working on their Christmas pageants. The Asabu Preschool has already had their fall program but the Nopporo Preschool is practicing theirs.

Some of my Canadian friends invited me for a meal on Canadian Thanksgiving. For many years I had a group over in late November for a Thanksgiving meal, but I was not able to continue when I worked at the high school, so it is many years since I have shared a Thanksgiving meal. I really enjoyed it.

Last week there was a charity concert for "Lifeline." The suicide rate is high in Japan, but now that the economy is not good the number of suicides is even higher. It was wonderful to enjoy a beautiful concert and help with the telephone

counseling. The concertmaster of the Sapporo Symphony and a professional Japanese harpist gave a beautiful concert. The Japanese harp “koto” and violin are seldom played together but it was beautiful.

Last Friday one of the first grade Sunday school boys was dismissed from the hospital. Three weeks ago he was hit by a car while riding his bicycle. His liver and lungs were damaged but have healed well, and he is able to return to school. We are so thankful.



*Back to normal after being hit by a car.*

Saturday I went to a piano recital. One of the church members teaches children at the church as well as in her home. Some of the preschool children and also some of the children from the church after school program take lessons. This is another chance to encourage the children and also get to know the parents and grandparents better.

Sunday was the yearly service to remember those who have passed away. Seven church members passed away this year. One of the ladies gave a beautiful testimony of God's faithfulness as she shared about her 43 years as a Christian couple. God gave her strength as she shared the last months with her husband who died of cancer.

Thank you for your support and prayers. May we all prepare for the holiday season with thankful hearts. As many people face uncertainty, may we remember God's faithfulness and share God's love as God leads.

In Christ,

Cornelia Roghair

*To access extensive information about Cornelia, or to make a financial gift for this ministry, simply go to [www.rca.org/roghair](http://www.rca.org/roghair).*

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